

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 L-03 /071 W

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R 021945Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8215

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

USUN NEW YORK 480

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT ETRD ES

SUBJ: CARIBBEAN SHIPPING LINE (NAMUCAR) - A PUERTO RICAN CONNECTION

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1483

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1. SANTIAGO ORTIZ, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF

PUERTO RICO, CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR MAY 30. HE SAID HE WAS VISITING EL SALVADOR AS AN OFFICIAL GUEST, IN ONE SENSE A RECIPROCAL GUESTURE FOR THE OFFICIAL VISIT BY GOES ECONOMY MINISTER HIDALGO QUEHL TO PUERTO RICO AFTER THE IDB SANTO DOMINGO MEETING. ORTIZ' VISIT IS SUBSEQUENT TO HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE MAY MEETING AT SAN JOSE WHICH RESULTED IN THE FOUNDING ON MAY 27 OF NAMUCAR.

2. ORTIZ SAID HE WAS INVITED TO ATTEND THE SAN JOSE MEETING BY GOCR FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO AND AS IN MOST REGIONAL OR HEMISPHERE MEETINGS THE ONLY WAY TO DESCRIBE PUERTO RICO'S STATUS WAS AS INVITED GUEST, SINCE ONLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES CAN GAIN OBSERVER STATUS IN MOST MEETINGS. (ORTIZ SAID SURINAM, CURACAO AND ARUBA WERE DENIED REQUESTS TO ATTEND AS OBSERVERS). HE SAID THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY PUERTO RICO MAY BE ABLE TO ARRANGE SOME KIND OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW SHIPPING CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH MEMBERSHIP PER SE IS PROHIBITED. HE BELIEVES THE LARGE AND UNDER-UTILIZED PUERTO RICAN GOVERNMENT-OWNED SHIPPING COMPANY CAN COMPLEMENT THE SERVICES ENVISIONED BY THE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE. HIS GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE VIABILITY OF THE CONFERENCE WAS POSITIVE AND AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOES OFFICIALS HE FELT THE GOES WOULD COME AROUND TO JOINING THE CONFERENCE. (COMMENT: A MAY 31 DISCUSSION

WITH GOES DIRECTOR OF PORTS REVEALED THAT ECONOMY MINISTER HIDALGO IS PUSHING FOR A RECONSIDERATION OF THE GOES NEGATIVE POSITION ON NAMUCAR. THE PORT DIRECTOR WAS STILL UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT.)

3. CONCERNING THE SAN JOSE MEETING, ORTIZ SAID THERE WAS SURPRISE THAT NICARAGUA JOINED AND EVIDENCED SUCH A POSITIVE SPIRIT. THE GROUP FEELING WAS THAT HONDURAS WOULD JOIN AND THE EXPECTATION WAS THAT FUNDING FOR THE INITIAL SUBSCRIPTION OF \$30 MILLION WOULD BE FACILITATED BY THE VENEZUELAN FUND.

4. CONCERNING HIS VISIT TO EL SALVADOR, ORTIZ SAID HIS MOTIVATION WAS MORE POLITICAL THAN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL. PUERTO RICO, WHICH EXHIBITED IN THE EL SALVADOR INTERNATIONAL FAIR IN 1972, DID NOT EXHIBIT IN 1974, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE CONFRONTATIONAL ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID HE BELIEVES THAT SITUATION HAS IMPROVED AND PUERTO RICO'S FEARS OF BEING CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF US/LA ISSUES HAVE DIMINISHED. THUS, THE COMMONWEALTH'S DESIRE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ITS POLITICAL IMAGE IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA WILL RESULT IN INCREASED OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE AREA AND STEPPED-UP EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. A TRADE OFFICE IS CONTEMPLATED FOR PANAMA WHICH WOULD SERVE CENTRAL AMERICA AS WELL. ORTIZ EMPHASIZED HIS CONTINUOUS CONTACTS AND COORDINATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND OTHERS IN THE USG AND HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH U.S. EMBASSIES IN THE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH P.R. IS TRYING TO STRENGTHEN TIES (PRINCIPALLY COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA). FOR THE EMBASSY'S PART, THE

AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO ORTIZ FOR HIS VISIT,
URGED ALL COMMONWEALTH VISITORS TO USE THE EMBASSY'S SERVICES, AND
ENCOURAGED HIM TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE BONDS OF ASSISTANCE WITH
THE GOES.
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